

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of using drilling fluid for drilling in a subterranean formation comprising the steps of:
providing a drilling fluid comprising substantially hydrated cement particulates; and
placing the drilling fluid into a the subterranean formation during the drilling.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates comprise an admixture.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates are formed by providing a settable composition comprising a hydraulic cementitious material, and water; allowing the settable composition to set into a substantially hydrated mass; and comminuting the substantially hydrated mass into smaller particles so as to form the substantially hydrated cement particulates.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the hydraulic cementitious material is selected from the group consisting of a Portland cement, a pozzolanic cement, a gypsum cement, a soil cement, a calcium phosphate cement, a high-alumina content cement, a silica cement, a high-alkalinity cement, a slag cement, and mixtures thereof.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the settable composition further comprises an admixture so that the substantially hydrated cement particulate comprises an admixture.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the admixture is present in the settable composition in an admixture-to-hydraulic cementitious material weight ratio in the range of from about 5:95 to about 95:5.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step[[s]] of coating the substantially hydrated cement particulates with another admixture.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of coating the substantially hydrated cement particulates with an admixture.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates have an average particle diameter in the range of from about 5 micrometers to about 250 micrometers.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrated cement particulates are a lost circulation material or a density-varying additive.

12-82. (Cancelled)

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the substantially hydrated cement particulates comprise a hydraulic cementitious material selected from the group consisting of a Portland cement, a pozzolanic cement, a gypsum cement, a soil cement, a calcium phosphate cement, a high-alumina content cement, a silica cement, a high-alkalinity cement, a slag cement, and mixtures thereof.